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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Extensions of country programmes in the Asia and the Pacific region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on: (a) the one-year extension of the country programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; (b) the one-year extension of the country programme for Iran (Islamic Republic of); and (c) the two-year extension of the country programme for the Philippines.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or requests for two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extensions for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Iran (Islamic Republic of), as indicated in table 1, and approve the two-year extension of the country programme for the Philippines, as indicated in table 2.

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Table 1. Extensions of UNFPA country programmes approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2008-2009	2010	The United Nations country team in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has requested an extension of the United Nations strategic framework (2007-2009), for one year, through 2010. UNFPA has therefore decided to extend its country programme for one year, through 2010. This will permit the commencement of the joint programming exercise, which includes the joint situation analysis and the formulation of the new United Nations strategic framework. In 2009, updated statistical data will be available since the results of the 2008 national population census are expected to	United Nations organizations operating in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have recently been given access to the northern provinces. This has enabled them to plan or conduct various data collection exercises, such as the food and crop assessment, the nutrition assessment and the multiple indicator cluster surveys in 2008 and 2009.	With regard to the population and development component of the country programme, the post-census phase will require additional activities in 2010 in order to: (a) develop the capacity of the Central Bureau of Statistics to conduct an in-depth analysis of census data for planning and policy formulation; (b) enhance the dissemination and utilization of census data; and (c) strengthen the capacity of planners and policymakers in using census data to formulate and monitor humanitarian and development plans and policies, as well as to monitor national Millennium Development Goals. With regard to the reproductive health component of the country programme, UNFPA will strengthen its partnerships with the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization to sustain emergency obstetric and neonatal care services in 11 counties that UNFPA had supported in 2007-2009, and will expand such services to new counties, which will be identified through a 2009 vulnerability assessment. The updated national strategy on reproductive health will guide the provision of this assistance, which will be focused at the primary health-care level, through village clinics. Based on the assessment of pilot projects in 2008 and 2009, UNFPA will also support the scaling up of the ongoing family planning and reproductive health commodity

			be released in 2009.		security programmes.

Table 1. Extensions of UNFPA country programmes approved by the Executive Director (continued)

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2005-2009	2010	The new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) cycle was to have covered the period 2010-2014. However, after the new UNDAF process was launched in May 2008, the United Nations country team, through the Resident Coordinator, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the government coordinating agency, entered into discussions. They agreed to continue with the current UNDAF until the new priorities of the government have been determined under the fifth national development plan (2010-2014). This would necessitate a one-year extension of the country programme, through 2010.	The fifth national development plan of the Government (2010-2014) is under development.	The current UNFPA country programme provides an adequate framework for all UNFPA-supported projects being implemented in Iran (Islamic Republic of). UNFPA will continue its work in its core programme areas through the end of 2010.

Table 2. Extensions of country programmes for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Philippines	2005-2009	2010-2011	The United Nations system in the Philippines agreed to extend the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) by two years, through 2011, in order to align it with the next medium-term development plan of the Government, expected to be ready by early 2011. The United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies in the Philippines therefore require two-year extensions of their respective country programmes, through 2011.	The current national development plan period is from 2004 to May 2010. After the presidential election takes place in July 2010, the new administration will finalize the next development plan, which will cover the period 2010-2016. In order to ensure alignment with the next national planning cycle, the Government has requested a two-year extension of the UNDAF.	During the two-year extension of the country programme, UNFPA will cover all villages in each of the 30 targeted municipalities and one targeted city in order to maximize the impact of the country programme. In addition, UNFPA will undertake, in selected areas, new pilot initiatives, such as demand-side financing, the training of skilled birth attendants and joint programmes. UNFPA will also support, under the joint programmes, other selected sites through the use of multi-bilateral funding. The current country programme provides an adequate framework for UNFPA projects and activities, through the end of 2011.